

Appl. No. 10/731,497

Atty Dkt. No. 114726-008

Response to Office Action mailed September 28, 2004

REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-11. Claims 1 and 4-7 stand rejected and claims 2, 3 and 8-11 were objected to. In this Response, no claims have been amended, cancelled or added. Thus, claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Specification

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to because of its length. In response, Applicants request that the Abstract be replaced with the enclosed Abstract, which is on a separate sheet. The enclosed Abstract has no more than 150 words.

Thus, Applicants submit that the objection to the Abstract has been overcome.

Allowable Claims

At page 3 of the Office Action, claims 2, 3 and 8-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowable claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

At pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Boser (US 4,714,038). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Figs. 1 and 2 show one example of Applicants' invention, as claimed in claim 1. Applicants' invention pertains to an apparatus 10 for sewing a slide fastener chain onto a cloth piece in which a slide fastener chain 2 supplied continuously is successively sewn onto a pair of cloth pieces 1 having an optional size. The sewing apparatus 10 has a table 12 on which a

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sewing machine 11 is provided and which guides the cloth pieces 1 during sewing. A cutting section 31 has chain cutting means for cutting the fastener chain 2 between the cloth pieces 1 having the fastener chain 2 sewn by the sewing machine 11. The cloth pieces 1 are moved continuously over the table 12 and suspending from a front end of the table 12. A sewn product receiving section 14 has sewn product transfer means 33 for receiving, in a lower part, a sewn product 3 cut away by the cutting means from the succeeding cloth piece 1 having the fastener chain 2 sewn thereonto and transfers the sewn product 3 to a rear end of the table 12 through a lower space portion of the table 12. The reference numbers inserted into the claim text above are for reference purposes only to the Figures and are not intended to limit the claims.

The example of Applicants' sewing apparatus 10 shown in Fig. 1 has a sewn product transfer means 33. The sewn product transfer means 33 transfers the sewn product 3 to a rear of the table 12. See the specification at page 25, lines 4-21.

Claim 1 calls for "a cutting section having chain cutting means for cutting the fastener chain between the cloth pieces having the fastener chain sewn by the sewing machine, moved continuously over the table and suspending from a front end of the table." Claim 1 further calls for "a sewn product receiving section having sewn product transfer means for receiving, in a lower part, a sewn product cut away by the cutting means from the succeeding cloth piece having the fastener chain sewn thereonto and transferring the sewn product to a rear end of the table through a lower space portion of the table."

Turning to Boser, Boser, which is assigned to the same assignee as the present invention, pertains to a method for sewing zipper chain to elongated fabric pieces. Boser does not describe, show or suggest Applicants' invention as claimed in claim 1. For example, Boser does not describe, show or suggest suspending from a front end of the table and a sewn product transfer means for transferring the sewn product to a rear of the table as claimed. Rather, Boser has a vertically movable platform 100 and a pair of transversely movable gripper jaw members 101. See Figs. 1 and 7 and column 5, line 28 – column 6, line 6. The gripper jaw members 101 are slidably mounted on a bar 106 and are moved back and forth thereon. The gripper jaw members 101 pull the sewn fabric pieces toward the table 100, and when the grippers 101 open the fabric pieces drop on the table 100. Accordingly, Boser does not anticipate Applicants' claims.

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Furthermore, Applicants submit it would not be obvious to modify the Boser gripper jaw members 101 and table 100 to result in Applicants' claimed invention.

Dependent claims 4-7 are allowable at least for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

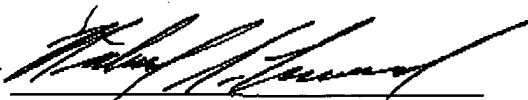
Thus, Applicants submit that the §102 rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,
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